

IN THE CLAIMS :

Claims 1 to 3, 6, 7 amended are attached.

Cancel claim 4.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment to the specification and claims and the remarks presented herein.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of Fig. 3 where numeral (11) has been added for the Examiner's review and the specification has been amended to provide proper headings.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 12 and 22 to 27, all other claims having been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to obviate the 112 rejections noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 11 and 12 have been rejected as being obvious over the Seeberger patent taken in view of the Dohi patent. Claims 6, 8, 9 and 10 have been rejected over the same combination of the prior art taken in view of the tertiary references. The Examiner states that Seeberger teaches connecting any one of a to f with leads to element 10, plugging the contact piece onto the connecting piece, the eyelets of a to f are rounded to hook on the leads of the speakers but fails to show laser welding, pressing the contact, piece onto the wire end. Dohi is cited to show laser welding, pressing the contact piece onto the wire end to prevent the wires from coming off the leads prematurely. The Examiner deems it obvious to use the Dohi laser welding in the Seeberger method.

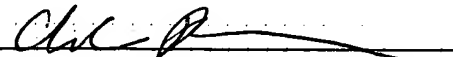
Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection since the amended claims are not obvious from the combination of the prior art cited by the Examiner. The claims have been amended to more clearly point out applicant's invention wherein an end of a wire is connected with a contact piece in the first step. In the next step, the contact piece is positioned on the connecting piece. In the last step, the contact piece is welded to the connecting piece by laser radiation.

Seeberger discloses connecting leads with a contact piece and plugging the contact piece onto the connecting piece but fails to disclose laser welding . Dohi discloses laser welding, but laser welding of a wire end to a contact piece. The present invention does not deal with welding of wires to contact pieces, but with welding of contact pieces to connecting pieces . The result of the present invention is a connection that cannot be separated without destroying it. In contrast, a combination of Seeberger and Dohi results in a connection that can be disconnected by pulling the contact piece from the connecting piece. Therefore, the object of the present invention is completely different from the objects of Seeberger and Dohi and from a combination of Seeberger and Dohi. Thus the present invention is not obvious, but requires an inventive step.

In view of the amendments to the specification and claims, it is believed that the claims clearly point out the applicant's invention and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of establishing an electrical connection between at least one connecting piece (9) of a workpiece (11) and at least one wire (6) comprising:

- preparing [the] an end of the at least one wire (6) with a contact piece (1) matched to the connecting piece (9);
- positioning the [prepared end of the wire (6)] contact piece (1) on the connecting piece (9); and
- welding the [prepared end to the] connecting piece (6) by laser radiation.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [preparation of the end of the at least one wire (6) comprises attaching thereto a] contact piece (1) is pressed onto the wire end.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the contact piece (1) is [pressed] plugged onto the [wire end] connecting piece (9) for the positioning.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, prior to the laser welding, the positioning of the [prepared end of the wire (6)] contact piece on the connecting piece (9) is monitored.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each workpiece (11) has at least two connecting pieces (9) and one wire (6) is connected to each connecting piece (9) [through a contact piece (1) at the end of wire (6)].